

THE
Bloomfield Record.A WEEKLY JOURNAL.
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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1893.

Our Bad Sidewalks.

Each citizen who has had occasion to do any walking about town this week has had impressed upon himself or herself the fact that we are tolerating in Bloomfield some very bad sidewalks and crosswalks.

It might be a good idea for these bad stretches of sidewalks, wherever located, to be published, classified under the headings of "Generally Bad," "Always Bad" and "Utterly Bad," in wet or slushy weather. Such a classification and publication might ultimately lead to a remedy if these particular bad sidewalks and crosswalks were kept published as "standing advertisements" until the owners or the Township authorities rendered them fit for public use and maintained them so.

In the case of most of these walks, all that is required is somebody to see that the snow is removed as soon as possible after it falls, and when so removed care taken not to shovel it off into the gutter, with the result of damming up that legitimate water way and so forming a stagnant canal, or lively sluiceway for the rain and melting snow just where people are supposed to walk.

A good thing has been done for our roads by the appointment of a Road Superintendent. The past week has demonstrated that we should also have a Sidewalk Superintendent, perhaps three, one in each ward, clothed with authority to enforce the ordinance relating to gutters, crosswalks and sidewalks, and see that they are sidewalks, and not, at times when most needed, converted into canals.

It is a pleasure to regard that as a very general rule the owners or occupants of property with improved sidewalks are quite prompt in clearing them, but it is no pleasure, it spoils all comfort, for one to walk dryshod over Miss Dodd's Broad Street sidewalk, and then for want of a gondo, to be compelled to ford Belleville Avenue ankle deep to Coffey's Store, from whence there is again "good walking" until you reach the vicinity of the Greenwood Lake Railroad bridge, where there has not been a stone of the walk free of snow, or mud, or ice, since the winter opened.

These are spots that have for years past been altogether discreditable to our town, not only in the winter but throughout the year in wet weather. At the Belleville Avenue crossing the water after a storm always stands until helped away with brooms, etc., and under the railroad bridge mounds of mud from the embankment are always to be found upon the flagging to a depth of from six inches to a foot. We repeat, this is discreditable.

Doubtless there are places in other parts of town where crosswalks and flagging have been put down and paid for by the public that are as badly kept in order for pedestrians, or as defective as to grade.

A halt should be called at once in all proposals to improve sidewalks until we are able to depend upon those we already have as to proper grade and prompt cleaning.

The motto of this paper is "Progress and Improvement," and in the name of all that is progressive we make war upon these bad sidewalks and crosswalks!

What Shall We Do?

"Taxpayer" in another column gives us considerable light on the lighting problem, showing clearly that in Jamestown, N. Y., a city of over Bloomfield's population, the municipality supplies electric lights "all night and every night," manifestly superior to the light we are now receiving, for about \$5800 per year. By reference to last Township report it cost Bloomfield \$5,464.59 for nine months' lighting of street lamps.

The appropriation recommended and voted for the present fiscal year was \$8000 for street lighting.

It is plain enough, then, that we can provide a plant, run it and furnish our own light, and better light for less money than we are paying. Are we competent to do it? Would it be wise to do it? Shall we do it?

These are the questions to be taken up, discussed and passed upon. They apply none the less pertinently to a water supply for fire purposes and private use. The citizens of Bloomfield must not soon look into these two matters in a non-partisan way and determine what they will do.

The Township Committee cannot be expected to take the initiative—the citizens must come together, com-

pare notes, and take action one way or another.

"Taxpayer" is not a fictitious citizen but an entity, one who is well known, and who, we are quite sure, has no at to grind, but is simply looking to the best interests of our town. There are other taxpayers who favor a water company, or a light company, organized from among our own citizens. That would perhaps be better than depending upon "outside corporations," against which there has been a growing opposition, especially as regards the water service.

It looks now as if the question of making wool free would ever until the next session of Congress, and in the meantime over one million American farmers who are interested in wool growing will hold their breath. These farmers have given great attention to the raising of sheep and should the duty be taken off of wool the 50,000,000 of sheep in the country will be a dead loss to them. An industry that it has taken years of labor to build up will be broken down should the duty on wool be repealed. All the cloth mills in the country would have to readjust their business on a lower basis of wages and it can readily be seen what an injury would be inflicted upon trade.

Whatever may be the outcome of the Baysonne Church controversy among Catholics there is one thing established which is highly creditable to Archbishop Salotti as the representative of the Pope. In his letter he has laid down the rule that the services shall be conducted in the English language, discontinuing the use of a foreign tongue as soon as possible. This is of great benefit to the German and all nationalities who come here to make their homes, as they cannot too soon acquire our language for their own good.

There is talk of building a crematory by the East Orange Township, just over the border from Bloomfield, to burn their refuse matter. An experiment of burning garbage was tried some time ago, but the energetic action of our Health Inspector Corby stopped it. The authorities want to keep watch to this attempt to create a nuisance and stop it in time.

Annual Meeting of the Editorial Association.

The thirty-seventh annual meeting of the New Jersey Editorial Association was held at the State Street House, Trenton, Monday.

The report of the Executive Committee, secretary and treasurer were read and accepted, and an address was made by the retiring president, John Chessman, of Bridgeton.

The report of the treasurer showed a balance on hand of \$1,151.98. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Chas. Starr, of East Orange; vice-presidents, G. W. McGowan, Bridgeton; E. C. Stahl, Trenton; St. George Kempton, Perth Amboy; F. F. Hummel and O. Vanderhoeven, of Dover; John S. Gibson, Newark; secretary, Chas. Bechtel, Trenton; treasurer, James S. Yard, Freehold; executive committee: Shonickson, Chew, Camden; A. A. Vance, Morristown; L. S. Hyer, Rahway; E. D. Stokes, Mt. Holly, and James S. Yard, Freehold.

The following new members were elected: W. H. Chew, Salem Standard; John F. Hall, Atlantic Democrat; C. H. Folwell, Mount Holly Mirror; C. W. Smith, Trenton Times; H. D. Torrey, W. H. Fisher, L. D. Tully and Daniel H. Appleget.

Frank F. Hummel read an essay on "The Country Newspaper," and President Chas. Starr read one on "The Advertiser Agent and Publisher." John F. Babcock read a paper entitled "Old Time Apprenticeship," and Colonel E. C. Stahl presented a paper on the death of Mrs. Chas. Bechtel, which was afterward adopted as a resolution.

At 2.30 a visit was made to the State House where they were received by the Governor in the executive chamber.

Political Bubbles.

There are some who think that the Spring Annual of Bloomfield will this year be the nature of a Referendum, to review, as it were, the acts of our Town Committee with more than the usual criticism, and that there will be a movement to nominate candidates for Town Committee irrespective of party, pledged to give the township better light and other improvements which will be presented at the meeting. It is asked that the Township report be printed early in order that people can have a chance to digest it before the meeting.

Things seem to be settling down in the First Ward, so far as the Republican candidate is concerned, and the chances are all in favor of Seymour P. Gilbert succeeding himself.

In the Second Ward the Democrats are boudering around looking for an available man. Since reading last week's Record they have come to the conclusion that there would be more in a name if it were "Dennis" instead of Inness.

The Second Ward Republican Club are a united and compact body. The Advertiser and would enjoy a good square fight, just for the fun of the thing, let the name of the opponent be what it may.

By the way, Pete Wade's chances for being Postmaster are believed to have been weakened somewhat by his coquetting with this Club.

We have been told on the D. Q. that William A. Baldwin would have no objection to adding Assessor to the many honorable titles he now wears as insignia of office.

In the Third Ward it is anybody's race at present for Town Committee. Among the Republicans there is no doubt but that the nomination belongs to the Centre

where the heaviest vote is polled. Should the Democrats swing out Francis Law it might be deemed advisable to get a candidate from that end of the district, and Geo. Peterson would come in. Ed- ward A. Rayner watches the play with considerable interest. He has made a good record as Committeeman and will very likely be re-nominated.

Samuel Moore wishes it to be generally understood that he is an opponent of the one to act as Assessor and there is no doubt he would make a good one.

An Electric Lighting Plant.
NOT AN ESTIMATE, BUT PROVED FIGURES.
SUBMITTED.

In the direct line of your excellent remarks in last week's Record in answer to my query, why we could not as a municipality have our own electric light plant, I would respectfully submit the following report of the Superintendent of the Jamestown, N. Y., electric light plant to show what others are doing for themselves in this line:

ITEMS OF COST.	
Coal	\$ 705.50
Cables, Oil, Globes, Waste, Packing, Incandescent lamps, Cation holders, Gas, Cleaning and repairing dynamo, Repairs on line, Insurance estimated and not paid, Repairs on machinery and grates, Sundries and supplies, Paid for operating, Interest on bonds,	699.93 191.20 12.80 32.10 14.28 25.35 10.25 27.00 143.75 41.07 108.07 2,525.00 1,150.00
Total,	\$5,805.51

135 are lamps to October 1st, 1892 are lamps since October 1st.

Jameson, N. Y., Nov. 21, 1892.

A careful analysis of the above report shows the cost of each lamp per year to be \$44.76. The original cost of the plant was \$28,800, and as those who are interested in private companies claim that a legitimate item of expense is 5 per cent depreciation on plant, we will allow the \$14.40 represented by that item. It is also claimed by private companies that there is a loss of taxes on a municipal plant, we therefore allow \$346.00 for that purpose, which is \$12 on a thousand for the full cost of the plant, assuming that it would be assessed for its full value, and we find that these two items increase the cost of each lamp \$13.18, which makes the cost for 1200 candle power are light \$57.94. In answer to an inquiry regarding the position of the night the lights were run, a member of the board of public works replies, "Lights burn all night and every night."

BLOOMFIELD, FEB. 15, 1893.

Church Notes.

Christ Episcopal Church services in the First Presbyterian lecture room were well attended on Sunday and the room was crowded. The Rev. A. White, preached in the morning from the text—"If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own soul, his religion is vain." Charity of speech was enlarged upon and commended to his hearers, deprecating the circulation of slanders which so many are thoughtlessly prone to, but with so much injury to others. The Sunday School session was also well attended and getting gradually back to its normal condition.

Christ Episcopal Church hold services in the First Presbyterian Lecture Room, viz: Sermons on Ash Wednesday at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Evening Prayer at 4.30 P. M. on Thursday and Friday.

Active measures are to be immediately taken by the Evangelical Union in their crusade against the saloons. All signers of petitions for licenses are to be intimidated by having their names published. A committee is to be employed to investigate petitions presented at the spring session of court, as it is suspected that many fraudulent signatures are affixed to the petitions.

The Royal Templars of Temperance have been conducting some very popular and interesting temperance meetings under the popular leader, Isaac T. Mills, who can elocute, vocalize and lecture one after the other and all together. Meetings were held in Watessing on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings in W. C. T. U. Hall, and in the First Baptist Church Lecture Room, Bloomfield, on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The meetings interfered with some of the meetings, otherwise they were successful.

The temperance movement has received quite an impetus in Watessing and Bloomfield. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of both places have been active in holding meetings.

The crowded state of our columns last week did not permit us to do full justice to the meeting held at the residence of the Bloomfield Woman's Christian Temperance Union. In addition to the spicy lecture by Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. E. W. Guindon, who is a sweet singer from New York, entertained the audience by her vocal melody and also by her effective handling of that melodious instrument, the auto harp.

The Ladies Guild of Christ Church will clear about \$300 from the entertainment in Union Hall. The same entertainment may be repeated in Monahan Club House at the close of the Lenten season.

Mr. John F. Dillon has in press a very handsome souvenir which will give a historical sketch of the Church of the Sacred Heart from the time of its inception to the present. It will be profusely illustrated and its binding will be a work of art.

Westminster Club met last week at Miss Russell's. The attendance was not very large.

The Y. P. S. C. E. of Westminster Church had a Valentine social on Wednesday evening at Mr. Henry Shubert's. The invitations were strictly confined to the members, of which there are about fifty.

The King's Daughters met at Mrs. Butler's in Glen Ridge on Wednesday.

A Friend?

When you are being fitted for your first pair of glasses it is decidedly annoying to have some one who knows you laugh at the evidence of approaching age, and tell you upon slight infirmity. You will avoid this by calling on J. Kendall Smith, Eye Specialist, 663 Broad St., Newark, N. J.

GARDENS OF SIDON.

SCENES OF RARE BEAUTY IN THE OLD PHENICIAN CITY.

An Ancient City Noted For Its Many Groves and Gardens—Phoenicia as She Appears Today—The Dream of Its People. Their Garments and Their Arms.

The dewdrops glittered in the light of the just rising sun, and the air was heavy with the sweet odors of hundreds of orange and lemon trees with white blossoms. The scene was a picture of marvelous fertility. Orange thickets, yellow and white with their double burden of fruit and date, all growing in the greatest luxuriance. At times we saw the queer shaftlike leaves of the banana, often 10 feet in length. An occasional mulberry orchard explained the presence of an extraordinary silk manufactory near by. Every few yards little brooks bubbled along, the absolute essentials of this luxuriance.

It is not strange that this paradise of flowers and fruit is much frequented by the inhabitants of the crowded, dirty town. No one can go through these fair gardens and fail to perceive why the worship of the old Sidonians was so closely connected with the grove, and how from nature's rich profusion of fertility, which was the essence of their religion. The ancient Sidon, too, was not crowded down close by the sea, but was situated farther back in the plain, and thus was enriched by a ring of emerald.

On the outskirts of the gardens we came to the catacombs of old Sidon, which have been excavated by the French. In the soft limestone rock extend long series of connected chambers which have contributed a few rude statues, several sarcophagi and mummies to the very few monuments which we have of that enterprising people who secured their alphabets at Sidon, and carried it to Greece, and thus transmitted, with certain changes, the letters with which we communicate our 19th century ideas. More of the esoteric art of Phoenicia is to be seen today in Athens than in all Palestine. There in the Mycenaean room one can see the richly carved and painted ornaments and the facsimiles of the beaten gold cups which were also manufactured by these artisans of oriental antiquity to grace the temple of Solomon at Jerusalem.

Every ruin of that ancient world, whether in Phoenicia or not, would have borne ample testimony to the skill and enterprise of this Semitic nation of traders.

Leaving these old tombs and the thoughts that they inspired, we were soon studying Phoenicia as she appears today. In our left extended the Lebanon range, while in the distance rose Mount Hermon, clad in snow, glittering like Pentecost's marble in the midday sun. On the right was the blue sea, into which we were long took a plunge. Before us the narrow battle path extended, now through fertile alfalfa only half grown today, & on our left extended the Lebanon range, while in the distance rose Mount Hermon, clad in snow, glittering like Pentecost's marble in the midday sun. On the right was the blue sea, into which we were long took a plunge. Before us the narrow battle path extended, now through fertile alfalfa only half grown today, & on our left extended the Lebanon range, while in the distance rose Mount Hermon, clad in snow, glittering like Pentecost's marble in the midday sun. On the right was the blue sea, into which we were long took a plunge. 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